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A FULL  
ANSWER

TO

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QUERIES *upon* QUERIES.

IN WHICH

The Conduct of the PLAYERS is Vindicated, and  
the Misrepresentations of the QUERIST Expos'd.

*Theatrum*

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By a COMEDIAN.

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L O N D O N:

Printed for J. ROBERTS in *Warwick-Lane.*

MDCCXLIII.

[ Price Six Pence. ]

A F U L L

# A N S W E R

T O

Q U E R I E S W O R T H Q U E R I E S.

I N W H I C H

The Conduct of the Lawyers is Vindicated, and  
the Misrepresentations of the Quaker Exposed.

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B Y A C O M M E D I A N.

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**A**S many various Reports have been spread about the Town, some in Favour, and many to the Prejudice of the Actors, and as some anonymous Pamphlets have been publish'd for and against 'em. I beg leave to assure the Publick, in the Name of my Brethren, that they are both Strangers and Enemies to any Scurrility that has been wrote on either Side; and as they think it would ill become 'em to publish or encourage any  
A 2 Abuses,



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Abuses, so on the other hand they shall never think it advisable to answer any. When they are attack'd seriously and rationally, they will endeavour modestly to defend themselves by known Facts and plain Reasoning, without having recourse to those weak Weapons, *Scurrility* and *Evasion*. The Author of *Queries upon Queries* seems more inclinable to indulge his *Satire* than search after *Truth*, and, instead of clearing the *Manager*, he only loads the *Players* with Abuses; however lest his evasive manner of writing should gain upon some who may read his *Queries*, and are unacquainted with our Affairs, I humbly submit the following *Answers* to the Consideration of the Publick.

*Query 1.* Were not the Patents for Theatrical Performances, originally and almost always granted to Persons of Fashion, and Gentlemen, such as *Killigrew*, *Skipwith*, *Davenant*, *Steele*, &c. And what Claim the present Malecontent Actors can lay to that Title, I shall leave their own Modesty and the Publick to determine?

*Answer.* The Players claim no Right to the Patent, nor desire any; they only expect to be paid their stipulated Agreements, as by their Labour alone the Patent becomes valuable. Sir *Thomas Skipwith* had no Patent, or Part of One granted to him, but purchas'd as the present Manager did. *Killigrew*, *Davenant*, and *Steele* were Authors of Plays, and of consequence proper Superintendants of the Theatre; but the *Querist* has prudently omitted *Shakespeare*, *Hemings*, and *Condell*, who were Players; as also *Booth*, *Wilks*, and *Cibber*, who cou'd be of no Service to him in the Question.

*Query 2.*



*Query 2.* Are not Patents Matters of mere Grace from the Crown? And is it injurious to fix what Limitations the Crown pleases? And does not some Persons Dislike to the Words *Heirs and Assigns*, proceed from it being a Bar to their Ambition?

*Answer.* Tho' Patents are Matters of Grace from the Crown, that by no means contradicts the first Intention; and as to the Players Dislike to the Words *Heirs and Assigns*, we assure the *Querist* and the Publick, that the People now aggriev'd have no ambitious Designs on the Patent, nor any Views, but the Recovery of the Arrears justly due to them, the Continuance of their Salaries, or a reasonable and customary Discharge at the End of a Season, that they may have time to provide for themselves elsewhere.

*Query 3.* Were not the Salaries of the first Actors last Season, double what were allow'd *Booth, Wilks, or Cibber* as Actors?

*Answer.* No: *Booth, Wilks, and Cibber* had no Salaries as Actors: Upon Sir *Richard Steele's* not attending the Business of the Theatre, they set themselves down at Ten Guineas *per Week* each, as Managers; which afterwards produced a Law-Suit, and a Verdict in their Favour. Instead of Salaries as Actors, they received three Fourths of the Profits arising from the Theatre, which to each Person (exclusive of their Ten Guineas *per Week* as Managers) amounted to a Thousand Pounds, often Fifteen Hundred, and sometimes more, yearly. See *Cibber's Life*.

*Query 4.* And is it not unreasonable that the second Class of Actors now should not be satisfied with the same Salaries

laties the *best* Performers had in the Time of the Patentees?

*Answer.* As we have prov'd the Weakness of the foregoing *Query*, this must fall to the ground; for if the best Actors last Season had not by several Hundred Pounds so much as *Booth*, *Wilks*, and *Cibber*, it is absurd to suppose the second Class had.

*Query 5.* Was it one of Mr. *Booth's* greatest Commendations to FORCE himself into the Patent? Or what would the Publick think now of any present enterprising Actor, who in order to force himself IN, should endeavour to force another Person OUT of his Property?

*Answer.* Whether Mr. *Booth* was to be commended or blam'd for forcing himself into the Licence, is neither the *Querist's* Business, nor ours: And as to the latter Part of the *Query*, We know of no enterprising Actors among us, who either *can* or even desire to force the present Manager out of his Property; they only endeavour to secure their own, for they look upon their Skill and Ability to be as much *their* Property as the Patent *his*.

*Query 6.* Whether by Sir *Richard Steele's* parting with three Fourths of the Profits to three Actors, some present Actors would not modestly insinuate themselves to be entitled to the same Advantage, notwithstanding the extraordinary Consideration paid for the Patent by the Manager?

*Answer.* The Actors do not pretend to the same Advantage with the Manager; yet they may ask this Question: Tho' he did pay what is here call'd an extraordinary Consideration for the Patent, would not One Thousand Five Hundred



red Pounds; the Sum offer'd for the Profits of the present season, be a most *extraordinary Consideration* and Interest for his Money?

*Query 7.* Have not the Expences been much larger in proportion than the Receipts, since the Time of *Wilks, Booth,* and *Cibber*?

*Answer.* We say, No: If the Manager thinks proper to print an Account of his Expences, it will be easily seen, whether the Salaries of his Players, and other useful People, were much larger in proportion to the Receipts.

*Query 8.* If the Manager *cannot* pay his Actors, and the other Expences as they stood last Year? And if, instead of the Profits arising to near three thousand Pounds, the Loss amounted to little short of that Sum? Ought not the Actors to be lower'd in their Salaries rather than continued or increas'd?

*Answer.* We say, he *could* have paid his Actors and other *Theatrical* Expences as they stood last Year, if he would, out of the Receipts of the Play-house; and we have a Right to demand, why he did not: Will he put it on the Issue of the Profits or Loss of last Year, whether their Salaries shall be continued or lessen'd? If he will, let him print a fair Account of his Receipts and Expences. If he will not, can he take it amiss if we do it for him?

*Query 9.* If the Manager ever made such Declaration, has he not paid severely for it, by the Actors enhancing their Prices in proportion to this suppos'd Profit?

*Answer.* We can prove the Manager *did* make such a Declaration, and if it was his Interest then to work upon the Credulity



Credulity of Persons who design'd to buy the Patent, or lend Money upon it, by making such a Declaration; may we not suppose the same Interest will influence him now to impose upon the Publick by making a Declaration absolutely the Reverse?

*Query 10.* If the Profits of the Theatre, by the Indolence, Exorbitance and Misbehaviour of the Actors are greatly decreas'd, should the Manager suffer for their Indolence and Injustice?

*Answer.* Here the witty *Querist* has betray'd his *short Memory*: In *Query 8* he mentions a Loss of near Three Thousand Pounds, and in *This* the Profits are decreas'd only: which would he have believ'd?

*Query 11.* Did not the Performances of the *Fausans* contribute more to the Profits of a Season, than any Actor whatsoever? And what was the Condition of the Theatre before their Arrival, when supported by Actors only?

*Answer.* No: A principal Actor now among us, brought for two Seasons together as many and as crowded Audiences; and tho' the *Fausans* brought a great deal of Money to the Theatre, yet the Receipts one Night with another before their Arrival amounted to Sixty Pounds each, tho' at the beginning of the Season, and when the Town was very thin.

*Query 12.* Did not the Manager pay Mrs. *Macklin* Six Guineas *per Week* last Season, for playing half a Score Times in Characters of no Consequence?

*Answer.*

*Answer.* The Inhumanity of this Query is very extraordinary. Illness has always been an allow'd Excuse for not performing: Mrs. *Macklin* was that Season brought to bed of a dead Child, and a consequential Illness attended her for a long time to the great Hazard of her Life.

*Query 13.* Did not the Manager propose this Harlequin of Service in some other Character, and did he ever offer to affront the Town by his Appearance in that?

*Answer.* If this *French* Harlequin cou'd be of Use in any other Character, why was he not employ'd? or were the Profits arising from Acting only so considerable, that the Manager had no Occasion for farther Assistance?

*N. B.* The Man cou'd not speak a Word of *English*.

*Query 14.* Have not the present Male-contents made the Patent (contrary to what it was in *Wilks*, *Booth*, and *Cibber's* Time) the most precarious Security in being, by turning themselves out, and forcing themselves in, as Whim and Caprice might lead?—And are Salaries double to what were formerly given, now esteemed little more than a bare Subsistence?—Should not a Manager as well as others be provided for, or would the Humanity of the Players transfer that Care to a Goaler?

*Answer.* No: The present Male-contents have not; the Manager indeed has; they did not turn themselves out, nor do they endeavour to force themselves in; and if by the Security of the Patent, the Value of it is imply'd, the Manager only has lower'd and made it precarious, by withholding the stipulated and earn'd Salaries of his Actors, by oppressing the lower People even to Misery and Want, by constant Promises, and no Performances, by sending Demands foreign



to the Affairs of the Theatre into the Office while the Performers remain'd unpaid. These are the Proceedings that have hurt the Patent, and lower'd its Reputation and Value. That the Manager should be provided for, is most reasonable: We wish him and would endeavour to obtain him an ample Provision; but let him not lay the Effects of the Misconduct of his early part of Life, and the infinite Demands and Expences accruing thence, upon the Losses he pretends to have sustain'd by the Play-house, from whence he has received such large and continued Profits.

*Query 15.* Are not several Families of deceas'd Players at present assisted and maintain'd by the Manager? Or is he oblig'd to support every Family that is reduc'd by the Extravagance of a Servant he once employ'd?

*Answer.* We know of no Families that are maintain'd and supported by his Benevolence. *Mrs. Harper*, indeed, has been promis'd a small weekly Stipend, as part of Payment of a very large Sum due to her deceas'd Husband; and supposing this Promise to be punctually perform'd, can paying little more than the Interest of the Money, at the same time that it diminishes the Debt, be call'd assisting and maintaining the Family?

*Query 16.* May not Persons of any other Profession, as well as the Stage, by many various Accidents, be disabled from following their Employment? And if they have not laid up something by their former Oeconomy, what Provision can they expect, but what the Law has provided? And wherein does the Profession of an Actor deserve more Indulgence than many others of much more Service to Society?



Society? Is not an Hospital as suitable to a *Player* as to a *Merchant* or *Tradesman*?

*Answer.* The Actors when render'd incapable by Age or Accident, can only apply to the Custom of the Theatre and it is very certain, while *Booth*, *Wilks*, and *Gibber* held the Patent, there was a constant and sufficient Income allow'd to such. But if the present Manager chooses to discontinue the Custom, I know no Retreat my poor Brethren can have, unless the humane *Querist* will found an Hospital on purpose for them.

*Query 17.* Was not an handsome Present, to a particular Actor last Season, rather an Act of Necessity than Choice to prevent his being of more Disservice; since the Manager cou'd by no other Means prevail on him to do his Duty, which he frequently neglected thro' Indolence, Affectation of Illness, Obstinacy, &c. till reviv'd by a cordial Present? — And as the Manager was so great a Loser was it not reasonable to attempt reducing his Income this Season?

*Answer.* The World very well knows, that the Manager seldom parts with Money by Choice; therefore to make it more consistent here, it shall be an Act of Necessity; but why to prevent this Actor's being of more Disservice to him? Was it not evident to all frequenters of the Play-house, that he was of the utmost Service to him? He play'd three and sometimes four times a Week, long and laborious Parts: And is that Solitude for the Manager's Advantage now call'd want of Duty, affectation of Illness, Indolence, and Obstinacy? Did not this Actor refuse a larger Salary elsewhere? Did he not labour to the utmost of his Strength, and was not his Indisposition

occasion'd by too great a Fatigue, perceptible to every Body? And yet the Gratitude and Justice of the Manager wanted to reduce his Income this Season, tho' he has often said that without him he could not have kept his Doors open last Season, and that he never would forget the Service he had done him.

*Query 18.* Were near fourteen Thousand Pounds taken last Season at the Theatre? And were not between two and three Thousand Pounds more expended than taken?

*Answer.* There was above fifteen Thousand Pounds taken last Season, and there was not two or three Thousand Pounds more expended than taken, as will be seen by the Accounts if the Manager pleases to produce 'em.

*Query 19.* Did not Mr. Garrick receive two hundred Guineas for three Nights playing, and ought such an exorbitant Demand to be a Precedent for future Exactions?

*Answer.* Yes. Mr. Garrick did receive two hundred Guineas for playing three times in the middle of May, when nothing but his playing could bring a House; and were not the Manager's Profits, arising from his playing, very considerable, nay so considerable, that he offer'd the same Sum for three Nights more? And is a voluntary Offer of the Manager's to be call'd an exorbitant Demand of the Actor?

*Query 20.* Were not the Expences of the Play-house in Wilks, Booth, and Cibber's Time (when no one can blame the Want of Oeconomy) about sixty Pounds per Night?

*Answer.*



*Answer.* Yes, their Expences amounted to near sixty Pounds a Night when they call'd in the unnecessary Auxiliaries of *Pantomime*, but not one of those Entertainment was perform'd last Season at *Drury-Lane*; and we shall prove that he might play with the Company of Actors he then had, and his present Band of Musick, allowing also fifteen hundred Pounds for Dancers, at less than sixty Pounds a Night.

*Query 21.* Is it reasonable that any Journeymen should oblige their Master to expose his Books to the Publick, only to satisfy their Insolence and Curiosity? Or whether if produc'd, they will not turn to their own Confusion?

*Answer.* The Journeymen are not so curious to inspect their Master's Books as he seems cautious of producing them, but if they can't receive their large Arrears, nor be continu'd in the Shop at their former Wages, can the World blame 'em for endeavouring to set up for themselves? And as to his confounding the Players by producing his Books, they are well assur'd he would have done that long ago, had he been certain of Success.

*Query 22.* Was it not necessary for the Authors of the Queries to join Proofs to Assertions, since Persons who are acquainted with the Gentlemen will certainly have ill Manners enough to doubt their Veracity?

*Answer.* Let the Manager prove they have made false Assertions, and we will allow the *Wit* the Turn of the Query.

*Query 23.* What Security was offered for the fifteen hundred Pounds? Is not the Manager's Patent his Property, and at his sole Disposal? And are not all Attempts to

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wrest it from him a Violation of common Right?—Tho' he were a Loser last Season, may he not hope by an equitable Reduction of the Expence, to become a considerable Gainer for the future?

*Answer.* Mr. Swiney, who made him the Offer, will take his Oath that he proposed *unquestionable Security* for the fifteen hundred Pounds. — The Patent certainly is at the sole Disposal of the Manager, but not the Labour of the Actor. And if the Manager affirms he loses by the exorbitant Demands of the Players, there is no Violation of Right to convince the Publick (to whom we appeal) that those Demands are reasonable in proportion to the Profit of the Theatre. He was no Loser last Season, but a Gainer, of above Two Thousand Pounds, as we shall soon make appear to the World; and if he had not put himself to such unnecessary Expence for a foreign Band of Musick and Italian Dancers, he might have cleared above Four Thousand Pounds.

*Query 24.* Would a more decent Representation of Plays be the necessary Consequence of conveying the Patent to the Male-contents? Or did not the Scene-men, Supernumeraries, &c. always attend their Business with much more Punctuality than the Players?

*Answer.* The Play-house and Theatrical Entertainments were never in so high Repute as under the Direction of Authors or Players, but particularly the latter; witness *Betterton, Mounfort, &c.* in those Days; and since them, *Booth, Dogget, Wilks, and Cibber.* The Scene-men and Supernumeraries, not being able to give long Credit on account of their small Salaries, did not attend their Business so punctually as the Actors, as was apparent to all the Spectators;

tors; nor had any of the Plays, particularly towards the End of the Season, their necessary Attendance and Decorations: This Mr. Cross, who was then his Prompter, complained of together with many Hardships of his own, and tho' he is now in his Interest, and become an Actor upon our Division, he cannot deny it.

*Query 25.* Whether it is not too apparent to need any Insinuation, that the Ingratitude of a particular Person is a principal Occasion of the Division between the Manager and Players, and whether the general Interest of the Actors is not likely to fall a Sacrifice, in Support of the Ingratitude?

*Answer.* The present Stand of the Players against the Manager, is not the Scheme of a particular Person to serve any private End, but a Struggle made by the general Consent of an injured Body of People, in order to obtain their just Debts, redress their Hardships which have been universal, and ward off a Blow that will be fatal to them if it takes effect. The general Interest of the Body cannot fall a Sacrifice to the Manager, if their Cause is just; if it is not, they ought to suffer.

*Query 26.* Is there no *Agreement, Association, or Cartel* relative to the Patentee, now subsisting between the Players and if there be, is it not absolutely meant to bring the Manager to their exorbitant Terms, and may it not in the End rather turn to their own, than the Prejudice of Theatrical Diversions? — Did not a *Cartel* exist in *Wilks Booth*, and *Cibber's* Time? And when were Theatrical Diversions less prejudic'd?

*Answer*



*Answer.* There is an Agreement among the Players to withstand the arbitrary Proceedings of the Manager, but not to bring him to exorbitant Terms. They think they have a Right to insist upon having their great Arrears discharged, and not to be excluded the Play-house till that is done; that they should be *continued* in their Salaries this Season, as they had no Discharge at the End of the last: A Cartel did exist in *Booth, Wilks, and Cibber's* Time; but they did not lower one Salary upon making it, and had Prudence enough to keep it a Secret for a considerable time.

*Query 27.* Does it not seem very reasonable that the Manager should make a Stand against them at this time, for if he complies with their Terms, the same Motive that induc'd them continually to augment them, will always subsist? And would it not be too complaisant in him to submit his *Interest and Property* to the Decision of their Consciences and Judgment?

*Answer.* When a fair Account is produced to the Town of the Manager's Profit and Loss, it will be soon seen which *Stand* is most reasonable; that of the Actors against a Manager, who refuses to pay them their Arrears, and continue them at the Salaries they had; or that of a Master against his Players, who, by *fictitious* Accounts of Loss, would insinuate to the Town that his Actors Demands have been exorbitant.

*Query 28.* Would it not have appear'd better to the World, if the Occasion of those Arrears had not been owing to a principal Performer's refusing to do his Duty throughout the Season; but more especially the last Month, the Profits of which were appropriated to the Discharge of those Arrears? — And can the Actors excluding themselves



selves from the Play-house, be esteem'd any Injustice in the Manager?

*Answer.* That principal Performer did his Duty throughout the Season; he play'd as often as his Health would permit, tho' not as often as the *Necessities and Good-nature* of the Master would have had him: And if such large Arrears as were owing within the Play-house, were left unsatisfy'd till the middle of *May*; ought not the Manager's Principle or Judgment to be called in question; for it is notorious that the former Patentees, *Booth, Wilks, and Cibber* always expected to lose Money after the Month of *March*; and *Mrs. Oldfield* had an Agreement not to perform after *April*: But if these Arrears were to be paid off or not, according to what the Manager expected to receive the three last Weeks of the Season (which the Receipts of two Months would not discharge) what reasonable Expectation could the Actor have of his Money; or how can the Master be said to be an Adventurer, when he only proposed to pay upon an improbable Hazard of Gain?

And as to the Actors excluding themselves from the Play-house; the Manager ought first to have paid them, and acquainted them at the latter part of the Season, with his Intention of lowering their Salaries; which if they had objected to, they had a reasonable Time to provide for themselves elsewhere.

*Query 20.* Does it not seem highly probable that the Actors intended to starve the Manager into Compliance? And who is answerable for their Folly, in wilfully parting with their sole Subsistence?

*Answer.* It is not probable that they intended to starve the Manager into Compliance for the Reasons in the Query

of our Side of the Question, of which the Answer takes no notice, *viz.* because the Actors [are not indebted to the Manager, but the Manager to them, and if they were, he knows where to find them.

*Query 30.* Have not the Actors drawn off Performers from the Patentee, tho' they are in Articles, and agreed to indemnify them?

*Answer.* The Actors in Articles, who have separated from the Manager, have done it by reason of repeated Ill-usage, and because the Contract was first broke by him; and therefore an indemnification was unnecessary.

*Query 31.* Whether it is not now prudent to prevent his own Ruin, by reducing the extraordinary Expence, whatever were his former Reasons for submitting to it?

*Answer.* The Actors wou'd labour to prevent the Manager's Ruin, but think that completing their own with that Design, wou'd be paying too great a Compliment to him. Here our friendly Evader takes no notice of the latter Part of our Query; but to save him the Trouble, I'll answer it for him, *viz.* The Motives that might formerly induce him to distress his Brother Manager, have ceas'd; and he now thinks it prudent to close with him, and turn the Artillery of Distress upon the Actors only.

*Query 32.* Considering the large Losses last Season by the Theatre, which the Manager now confesses, and the great Sums of Money due in consequence of them; is it not natural to suppose, that either the Players Circumstances or Desires cannot be limited to a reasonable Profit; but that they are resolv'd to grasp at more, at the Expence of the Manager's Ruin?

*Answer.*



*Answer.* The Manager's Complaints of large Losses last Season, will not be believ'd till Proofs of them are produc'd; the great Sums of Money owing, are not the Consequence of his Losses by the Play-house; and it is very well known that his Circumstances require more than the Profits of a Play-house to make them easy; his present Attempt to lower the Incomes of his Actors, whom he has not paid, is a convincing Proof of the Unreasonableness of his Desires, and that he is resolv'd to grasp at more, at all Events.

*Query 33.* Was it not unnecessary for the Manager to acquaint the Town with what has long been so notorious? Or is there any Occasion for insinuating Falsties to magnify his Distress, or set forth the Insolence and Unreasonableness of his Actors?

*Answer.* If the Manager did not think the Town, who support both him and his Actors, worthy of an Address at this Juncture, but left it to common notoriety; don't let him be surpriz'd if we do, as it is both our Duty and Interest: As we hope to make it appear, that his Distresses have not been owing either to his Actors, or his Purchase of the Patent; and that his Players have been neither insolent or unreasonable,

*Query 34.* Were not the Hardships of those who belong'd to him, particularly the lower Sort of People, owing to the Avidity of the upper Sort? and were not the poor Dressers left unpaid, thro' the rich Actors insisting upon being punctually paid, tho' the Receipts of the House were insufficient? — Has not the Manager's Contributions been often more extensive than prudent? And did he not, at his sole Expence, bury the very Person here hinted at? —

Has not any Infolence of the Treasurer to the Players, been often return'd with Interest by the Players to the Manager? — Is it not customary to pay the Charge before the House opens? And is it not reasonable, considering how precarious it might be to obtain it afterwards? — Did not Mr. *Berry* enter into an Association to prevent the Curtain's being drawn up whenever the least Arrear should be due to him? Was it then unreasonable for the Manager to keep his Doors shut, till the Charge of the Benefit was secur'd? — What is the melancholy Situation of Mr. *Mill's* and Mrs. *Butler*? Was not Bail immediately put in for the one, and Proceeding staid against the other by the Manager, notwithstanding the Pretence of four Months Confinement on that Account? And do they not know that the Money is now in a Banker's hands to discharge the whole Debt they are liable to? — Is not the Actors Veracity as much to be suspected as the Manager's Humanity? And do they think their Cry of Cruelty, unsupported with the least Shadow of Proof, will be sufficient to interest the Publick in the present Attack of the Actors upon the Manager?

*Answer.* The Hardships of the lower Sort of People were not owing to the Avidity of the upper Sort; nor were the rich Actors punctually paid; if they had, from whence cou'd the large Arrears, not deny'd to be due to them, arise? Where is the Consistency of our *Querist*? And we do likewise insist (and defy him to prove the contrary) that there was Money enough taken to pay all Sorts of Performers.

If the Manager contributed to Families and others that he owed Money to, I don't think they were much oblig'd to him; and if demanding their Salaries when due, be Infolence in the Players, it is confessed that they have had Occasion



Occasion to be so more than once, both to the Manager and his Treasurer: It has not been customary to pay the whole Charge of a Benefit before the Doors are open'd: In *Booth, Wilks* and *Cibber's* Time, when they look'd well to the Charge, as they paid well, never more than half the Charge was demanded, and that near the End of the Season, and from the lower Sort of People only: Mr. *Berry* never enter'd in any Association to distress the Manager, but to get his Money, which he had Assurances he cou'd not otherwise do.

The Situation of Mr. *Mills* is this, That he has been arrested for Five Hundred Pounds, and has been bailed; but is now liable to a much larger Sum; that he did not, nor does know that the Money is in a Banker's hands to discharge it; and if it is, why is it not discharg'd? Mrs. *Butler's* confining herself to her House four Months is not a Pretence, as will appear by the Affidavits of herself and others. The Actors Veracity is not to be as much suspected as either the Manager's Veracity or Humanity: He has brought nothing to support the former, and we can produce numberless Instances to prove and bring the latter in question. Upon the whole, when our general Case appears, as it very speedily will, let the Publick then determine, as Truth, Reason, Justice, and Evidence direct.

I have now finish'd what I imagine to be a full and satisfactory Answer to the foregoing Queries, and I hope my Concern for the Cause of my Profession has not misled my Judgment; I shall now take notice of what the *Querist* says at the Beginning of his Pamphlet: "I found this Piece (meaning the Queries to the Manager) ow'd its Birth rather to *Disappointment* than *Oppression*" —

The

The *Disappointment* the Players met with by being excluded the Theatre without receiving one Farthing of their Arrears, and without a Discharge at the End of the last Season, which was always usual, and would have given 'em Time to provide for themselves elsewhere, did, I suppose, occasion the publishing of the Piece in question. — How far my distress'd Brothers were wrong to call this *Oppression*, I shall leave to the Impartial to determine: A little farther the *Querist* asks us, "Whether we ought not to think the Publick is too jealous of its Dignity to descend to concern itself in a Dispute of so insignificant a Nature?" That our friendly *Querist* has not condescended to think about it, the World may be very well convinced of from his *Queries*; and as he looks upon our Complaints to be only the Effects of *Disappointment*, we look upon his Abuses to be merely the Effects of a particular Attachment to the Manager.

'Tis much to be lamented that so surprising a Genius cannot wean himself from this Affection, that he might employ his *Extraordinary Talents* solely in *State Affairs*, and leave the Consideration of the Stage to Men of less Importance.

F I N I S.



*Speedily will be published*

**The C A S E of the P L A Y E R S**

Lately belonging to the *Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane*:

In which the Distresses of particular Persons will be proved by their Affidavits, and the whole Affair set in a clear Light, and submitted to the Publick.

Speedily will be published

## The CASE of the PLAYERS

Lately belonging to the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane:

In which the Difficulties of particular Persons will be proved by their Affidavits, and the whole Affair set in a clear Light, and submitted to the Publick.



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